

East, Sir Edward Hyde, Bart. MP FRS (1764 - 1847), British MP, legal writer and judge in India, was born on 9 September 1764 in Jamaica, on the estate of his great-grandfather John East.

He was educated at Harrow before studying at Magdalen College, Oxford. He went on to study Law at the Inner Temple and became MP for Great Bedwyn in 1792. He was a supporter of William Pitt and was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Bengal at Fort William in 1813. He was a great promoter of education in India, particularly of the Hindu College. He retired in 1822 and returned to England, where he was MP for Winchester from 1823 to 1831.

He was present at the meeting held at H.T. Colebrooke's house, 32 Argyll Street, on 9 January 1823, at which the Asiatic Society was founded. He was also present at the second meeting held at H.T. Colebrooke's house, on 16 January 1823, at which the membership of the Asiatic Society was discussed.

He died on 8 January 1847 at his home in Sherwood House, Battersea. His estate was small, and there was insufficient money to pay the bequests which he had made in his will.

He wrote:

Pleas of the Crown 1803.

Reports of Cases in the Court of the King's Bench 1817.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 19 Stratford Place; in 1834, he lived at Hadderstrop House, Oxfordshire



Statue of East by Chantry, 1829, in the High Court of Calcutta

Ede, James (c.1790 - 1842) was a British lawyer born around 1790.

His father may have been James Ede, Head of an Agency House, Calcutta, who died on board the *Sovereign* on route for England, 10 April, 1805. The Ede family was well-known in the Southampton area for centuries. A William Ede was MP for Shoreham in the early 15th century. Later, the family owned plantations on Nevis in the West Indies.

Ede matriculated at Oriel College Oxford 7 July 1810, aged 19 and entered Lincoln's Inn in 1812. He married Catherine, daughter of G.B. Wright of Polygon House, Southampton, on 4 October 1817.

In January 1820 he gave a large party for the important personages of Southampton as noted in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal January 1820*: "the party was very numerous; the embellishments of the ball-room were truly superb, and the viands consisted of every luxury which taste and fancy could suggest."

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and he paid his subscriptions from 1823 until 1827. He sat on the Committee of Southampton Regatta in the summer of 1827.

James Ede's house, Ridgeway Castle, was called "an elegant modern mansion" in the Southampton Guide of 1825; an earlier description calls it a "castellated mansion." It was demolished after his death, at some time in the 1850s.

He died on 11 December 1842 at Southampton.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Ridgeway Castle, Southampton

Edmonstone, Neil Benjamin (1765 - 1841), civil servant in and director of the East India Company, was born on 6 December 1765.

He became a writer with the East India Company and arrived in India in 1783. Based in Calcutta he was Persian translator to the government. He became private secretary to the Governor-General, Lord Wellesley in 1798 and was the leading figure in Wellesley's policy to defeat the French influence and remove Tipu Sultan from power. He was, according to one historian "one of the most valuable officials and far-seeing statesmen which the Indian civil service has ever produced."

He became Chief Secretary to the Indian government and a member of the Supreme Council of Bengal. He retired in 1818 and returned to England. Soon after, in 1820, he was elected a director of the East India Company.

His son, also Neil Benjamin, married Madalina Trant daughter of RAS member William Henry Trant.

He was present at the meeting held at H.T. Colebrooke's house, 32 Argyll Street, on 9 January 1823, at which the Asiatic Society was founded. He was also present at the second meeting held at H.T. Colebrooke's house, on 16 January 1823, at which the membership of the Asiatic Society was discussed. He paid his subscriptions from 1823 until 1827. He was also a member of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

He died on 4 May 1841 at Portland Place.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 49 Portland Place (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821).

The RAS library has:

Official documents, relative to the negotiations carried on by Tippoo Sultan, with the French nation, and other foreign states, for purposes hostile to the British nation: to which is added, proceedings of a Jacobin club, formed at Seringapatam, by the French soldiers in the corps commanded by M. Dompant with a translation: printed by order of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council / Edmonstone, Neil Benjamin, Keble, G. G & Doyle, C. J (1799)



Portrait of Neil Benjamin Edmonstone by William Bradley, sold at auction 2015

The RAS library has two gifts from Neil Benjamin Edmonstone:

A translation of the *Seir mutaqharin* : or, view of modern times, being an history of India, from the year 1118 to the year 1195, ... / the whole written in Persian by Seid-Gholam-Hossein-Khan. An Indian nobleman of high rank, who wrote both as an actor and spectator. (MDCCLXXXIX [1789])

Musladini Sadi Rosarium politicum : sive Amoenum sortis humanae theatrum / de Persico in Latinum versum, necessariisque notis illustratum a Georgio Gentio. (MDCLIV [1654])

Ellis, Sir Henry FRS (1788 - 1855), British diplomat and politician, was born on 1 September 1788 in Dublin. He was the illegitimate son of Robert Hobart, 4th Earl of Buckinghamshire and Chief Secretary to the Viceroy of Ireland.

Ellis was educated at Harrow and then at Fort William College, Calcutta, from 1805 to 1807, where he learned Hindustani, Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit. The Encyclopedia Iranica notes that Ellis carved his name into the Gate of All Nations at Persepolis, whilst visiting in 1810 with a group that included future RAS member Thomas Snodgrass. At around this time he was working with the East India Company. He resigned from the company in 1811 but was soon reinstated as president of the board in Calcutta by his father who had recently become President of the Board of Control of the EIC. Ellis' knowledge of oriental languages led to his appointment of Plenipotentiary in Persia in 1814. In 1815 he helped negotiate the Anglo-American Peace Treaty.

He was appointed Third Commissioner to the Embassy of Lord Amherst to China, 1816-1817, and was on the *Alceste* when she was wrecked on the homeward passage. He was one of several future RAS members including Captain Basil Hall, Lord Amherst, Dr Clarke Abel, John Francis Davis, and Thomas Manning who stopped at St Helena on their return and spoke with Napoleon. See also Colin Campbell, who may also have been there on his brother's ship the *General Hewitt*. The story of the return voyage is graphically described by Dr McLeod in *The Voyage of the Alceste* (London 1818). Ellis wrote about his experience in China, publishing *Journal of the proceedings of the late embassy to China* in 1818.

In 1819 he was appointed deputy Colonial Secretary in the Cape of Good Hope, but returned to stand for parliament in the election of 1820. His election agent was the same Dr McLeod who had been with him on the *Alceste*. He became MP for Boston in 1820, but was unseated in 1821 as ineligible.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1827. In 1834 he is listed in the RAS Journal as a member of the Oriental Translation Fund. He was also a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He was Commissioner of Customs from 1824 to 1825, and Clerk of the Pells 1825 to 1834. He was briefly Ambassador to Persia in 1835-6. He was knighted in 1848.

He died on 28 September 1855 in Brighton.

Address: (1823) 78 Baker Street; (1824, 1825) 83 Baker Street, Portman Square

Elphinstone, John Fullerton (1778 - 1854), civil servant in the East India Company and landowner, was born on 15 September 1778 in Midlothian, Scotland.

He was the cousin of Mountstuart Elphinstone (also a member of the RAS) and his father was William Elphinstone, a director of the East India Company. His sister, Clementina, married Vice-Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm (also a member of the RAS).

He was sent to Canton in 1794 as a writer with the EIC, and by 1800 had risen to the rank of Supercargo. He served as President of the China Select Committee until his retirement in 1818. He did not like life in China, suffering several bouts of ill-health whilst there. He returned to England soon after his retirement.



John Fullerton Elphinstone, from *The Elphinstone family book*

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscription as a resident member for that year. He was also a member of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

Ho Chee, a former mandarin whom he had met in Canton, followed Elphinstone to England, becoming his factotum and eventually heir.

Elphinstone acquired estates in Lingfield, Sussex and elsewhere, but his health remained poor. Elphinstone never married, spending his time moving with Ho Chee and several other Chinese servants (including John Sue Achow and Sam Ford) between his country estates and his house in Regent's Park. He lived quietly as a landowner until he moved to a rented house on the seafront in Brighton where he died on 12 March 1854.

His estate was passed to Ho Chee who immediately applied for naturalization, without which he could not have inherited the estate. Hochee married Charlotte Mole in 1823, and had several children.

Address: (1823) 49 Beaumont Street; (1824, 1825) 23 York Terrace, Regent's Park

Elphinstone, The Honourable Mountstuart (1779 - 1859), Scottish statesman and historian, was born on 6 October 1779 in Dumbarton, Scotland. He was the fourth son of Baron Elphinstone.

He went to India in 1796 as a junior writer with the East India Company in Calcutta. In 1801 he was promoted to assistant of the Resident of Peshwa and was attached to Sir Arthur Wellesley's mission as a diplomatist. In 1804 he was appointed Resident in Nagpur. In 1808 he became the first British envoy to Kabul, though the enterprise was curtailed after the ruler of Afghanistan was overthrown. In fact he never actually went as far as Kabul, only making it to Peshawar on the border where the Afghans stopped him.

He then became Resident in Poona which proved equally difficult as he was involved in the Maratha war. While resident of Poona Captain James Grant and Henry Pottinger, both future RAS members, were on his staff.

In 1819 he became Lieutenant-Governor of Bombay, where he remained until 1827. He greatly promoted education for the Indians despite the tide of public opinion in Britain which had been against educating the "natives." He built the first bungalow for use as a residence for British expatriates. The design caught on rapidly in India and then in England.

He was a member of the Literary Society of Bombay in 1823 and a founding member of RAS in 1823.

He returned to England in 1829, and was offered the Governor-Generalship of India, but refused it. In 1839 he published *Account of the Kingdom of Caubul and its Dependencies And* in 1841 he published *The History of India*.

He died on 20 November 1859 in Hookwood, Surrey.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Bombay

The RAS Library has:

An account of the kingdom of Caubul, and its dependencies in Persia, Tartary, and India; : comprising a view of the Afghaun [sic] nation, and a history of the Dooraunee monarchy. / By the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, (1819)

The history of India / by Mountstuart Elphinstone. (1841)

The history of India: the Hindú and Mahometan periods / Mountstuart Elphinstone. (1857)



Mountstuart Elphinstone, by Charles Edward Wagstaff, after Henry Pickersgill, National Portrait Gallery

Life of the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone / by Sir T.E. Colebrooke. (1884)

The rise of the British power in the East / by Mountstuart Elphinstone ; being a continuation of his "History of India in the Hindú and Mahometan periods" ; edited by Sir Edward Colebrooke. (1887)

Lists of manuscripts collected for the Government Manuscripts Library by the professors of Sanskrit at the Deccan and Elphinstone colleges since 1895 and 1899 / compiled by the Manuscripts Dept. of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona. (1925)

Poona affairs (Elphinstone's embassy) / edited by G.S. Sardesai (1950-1958)

Elphinstone correspondence, 1804-08. / Edited by R. M. Sinha and A. Avasthi (1961)

Mountstuart Elphinstone / by Lord Radcliffe of Werneth (1962)

Mountstuart Elphinstone: the Indian years, 1796-1827 / R. D. Choksey. ([1971])

An account of the Kingdom of Caubul / by the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, with a new introduction by Sir Olaf Caroe. (1972)

The history of India / Mountstuart Elphinstone (2013)

Erskine, William (1773 - 1852), Scottish lawyer, was born on 8 November 1773 in Edinburgh.

He studied law at Edinburgh University. In 1804 he travelled to Bombay at the invitation of Sir John Mackintosh who considered him "one of the most amiable, ingenious, and accurately informed men in the world," to become Master in Equity at the Recorder's Court. With Mackintosh he was instrumental in setting up the Literary Society of Bombay in 1823. He was also a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions in 1823 and 1824.

Together with Mountstuart Elphinstone (also a member of the RAS) he drew up the 'Bombay Regulations.' He was removed from office in 1823 following accusations of malpractice and retired to Edinburgh. He was Provost of St Andrews University from 1836 to 1869. He translated the *Baburnama*, the memoirs of Babur.

He died on 28 May 1852 in Edinburgh.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Bombay; in 1834 he lived at Blackburne House, Linlithgow

The RAS library has:

A history of India under Humayun : being the second volume of A history of India under the two first sovereigns of the House of Taimur, Baber and Humayun / by William Erskine. (1974)

A history of India under Baber: being the first volume of A history of India under the two first sovereigns of the House of Taimur, Baber and Humayun / by William Erskine ; with an introduction by P. Hardy. (1974)

Evans, Professor James Thomas (1785 - 1849) was an English teacher born in 1785 in Gloucester.

Little is known about Evans who was a founding member of RAS in 1823. He taught English at the University of Moscow from 1809 to 1826 and founded the *English Literary Journal* in January 1823.

He died in 1849.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Moscow

Evans, William (1781 - 1826), civil servant and publisher, was born on 27 January 1781.

He joined the East India Company in 1796 and worked in their offices in the London as a baggage agent, becoming warehouse keeper in 1812, and was still Keeper of the Baggage Warehouse in 1819.

He married Ana, the daughter of Dr Stephen Pellet of St Alban's, in February 1807.

During his time at East India House he became a good friend of Charles Lamb, the poet and essayist, who also worked there and occasionally contributed to the *Pamphleteer*, a review owned by Evans. Another friend was the poet Samuel Coleridge who fell in love with Evans' sister Mary.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from that year until 1825.

Although he gave his address as East India House, he in fact owned houses in Weymouth Street (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821), and also Baker Street.

He died 22 May 1826 at his property on Baker Street.

Address: (1823) East India House; (1824, 1825) East India Baggage Warehouse

Evelyn, Captain George (1791 - 1829), soldier in the British army, was born 15 September 1791 in Galway.

A descendant of the diarist John Evelyn, he was educated at Harrow before entering the army in 1810.

Captain of the 3rd Foot Guards, he served during the Peninsular War and at Waterloo, where he was seriously injured in the action at the Chateau de Hougomont. His left elbow was shattered, so badly that he carried it in a sling afterwards. He married Mary Jane Massey-Dawson in 1821 and inherited the Wotton estate in 1827.

He was elected to RAS membership in 1824 and paid subscriptions from that year until 1827. He was also a member of the Athenaeum.

He eventually died of his injuries, 14 years after the battle of Waterloo, on 10 February 1829.

Address: (1824, 1825) 28 Gloucester Place; Wotton Park, Surrey



George Evelyn, of Wotton

Evelyn, Lyndon MP (1759 - 1839), barrister, businessman and politician, was born in 1759. He was the son of Francis Evelyn of Dublin.

In 1795, as a stockholder in the East India Company, he listed his address as Exeter. He was a director of several new companies including the Haytien Mining Company, the Potosi and La Paz and Peruvian Mining Corporation; a mining enterprise that lasted for only a couple of years from 1823 to 1825.

He served as MP for Wigtown Burghs from 1809 to 1812, then for Dundalk from 1813 to 1818 and finally for St Ives from 1820 to 1826.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1825 and 1826.

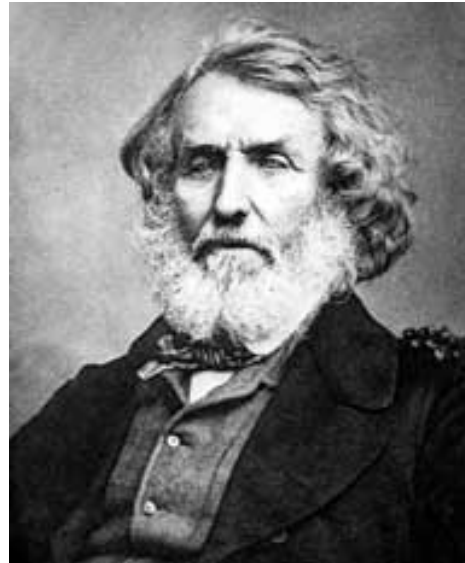
His correspondence, from 1824 to 1839, is in the National Archives; a letter from him to John Stanhope Arkwright is addressed from Dyersburg, Tennessee.

He died on 30 April 1839.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 28 York Place, Portman Square (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821)

Everest, Captain George (1790 - 1866), British surveyor and geographer, was born on 4 July 1790 in Greenwich.

He was educated at the Military College in Marlow and then the Military Academy at Greenwich before joining the East India Company as a cadet in 1806. In 1813 he joined the Bengal Artillery as a 2nd lieutenant and was posted to Java where he carried out a survey for the governor, Sir Stamford Raffles (also a member of the RAS). He returned to Bengal in 1817 and became assistant to Colonel William Lambton, who as Surveyor-General of Bengal, had begun the Great Trigonometric Survey of India in 1806.



George Everest, photogravure by Maull & Polyblank, 1860s

He was a member of RAS in 1826 and paid composition fee as resident member in that year.

Everest was Surveyor-General of India from 1830 to 1843, during which time he completed the Trigonometric Survey along lines first used by Thomas Colby (also a member of the RAS) of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland. After he retired, the survey measured the highest mountain (Peak IV) for the first time as 8840m. The mountain was named after him in 1865, by the Royal Geographical Society, in spite of his strenuous objections. The height of the mountain has since been agreed to be 8848m, its snow height, or 8844m, its rock height.

He was Knighted in March 1861.

He died 1 December 1866 in London and is buried in St Andrew's Church, Hove.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Nil

Note: his surname was pronounced 'eve-rist,' rather than 'ever-rest'.